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INTERCHURCH WORLD MOVEMENT
OF NORTH AMERICA

Work and Relations

of the

Survey Department

Headquarters of the Movement
111 Fifth Avenue New York City

The Work and Relations of the Survey Department

I. THE WORK OF THE SURVEY DEPARTMENT

1. The Survey Department of the Interchurch World Movement will make a study of the religious conditions of the entire world.

   For the United States, including Alaska, Hawaii and the West Indies, this study will seek to reveal the outstanding needs in the realm of Home Missions, Education, Religious Education, Hospitals and Homes, and Ministerial Support and Relief.

   For foreign lands it will seek to reveal the outstanding needs in all phases of missionary enterprise.

   By cities and counties in this country and by well defined geographical units in foreign lands, it is proposed that the exact facts as to religious conditions and religious responsibilities be discovered to the end that the needs of each community and region may be appraised and the whole task of the church put in clear light and due proportion.

2. It will supply the results of its survey to all home and foreign missionary agencies in the United States and to all other agencies or organizations whose work is surveyed.

3. It will offer assistance to all of these agencies or organizations in preparing plans commensurate with their responsibilities in their respective fields and types of work.

4. It will formulate a united statement of the program and budget covering those plans for the financial campaign of the Interchurch World Movement.

5. It will furnish to the appropriate departments of the Interchurch World Movement material for publicity in this campaign.

II. HOW THE SURVEY DEPARTMENT DOES ITS WORK

The information which the Survey Department requires is to be secured from the following sources:

1. All published reports and survey material already available.

2. Libraries, reference bureaus, etc., for general facts concerning all areas studied.

3. Interviews with those whose specialized experience in any line of work renders their judgment authoritative.

4. Special investigations to be made by such deputations as may be sent out from time to time.

5. Conferences with leaders and experts on special problems as they arise in the field.

6. Direct inquiry by letter or questionnaire.

7. Direct and personal study of the fields involved in cooperation with local leaders and with their approval.

For directing such a study, and for the collection and classification of the desired material, the Survey Department is organized into the following divisions:

a. *The Home Missions Division* will formulate the statement of the program and budget covering the responsibilities of the American home mission and church extension agencies for the needs of the United States, Alaska, Hawaii and the West Indies. It will also attempt to help self-supporting local churches to discharge their parish and community responsibilities of a missionary character.

b. *The Educational Division* will make a study of denominational and independent colleges and theological seminaries; also state universities and other tax-supported institutions and secondary schools in the United States. It will formulate the statement of the program and budget covering the responsibilities of religious bodies for meeting the needs of Christian education in the United States and for the preparation of an adequate force of Christian leaders.

c. *The Religious Educational Division* will study the problems of religious education in the home, the local church and the community in order to secure a definite body of facts upon which to base a program of religious education for the United States which may be budgetted in terms of men and money.

d. *The Ministerial Support and Relief Division* will formulate the statement of the program and budget covering the responsibilities of the various denominations in the United States for the support of their ministers and for the relief of aged and dependent ministers, missionaries, and their families.

e. *The Hospitals and Homes Division* will formulate the statement of the program and budget covering the responsibilities of those agencies engaged in such benevolent enterprises in the United States.

f. *The Foreign Division* will present a new study of the situation and need in all foreign mission fields, in such terms as will assist the missionary agencies of the United States to formulate a program and budget commensurate with their share of responsibility for Christianizing the world.

III. RELATION OF THE SURVEY DEPARTMENT TO DENOMINATIONAL AND OTHER SURVEYS

Note: The plans for cooperation suggested below apply in principle to all denominational and other agencies whose work will be studied by the Survey Department.

The organizing principle of the Interchurch World Movement has been characterized as a thorough-going plan of cooperation among such missionary, educational and benevolent agencies of the evangelical bodies in North America as now are or may later be included in the plans and program of the Interchurch World Movement.

The Survey Department will do a work of fundamental importance and value only as it receives the fullest cooperation of all the agencies which are now engaged, or which may be engaged in making surveys of their own work. With this cooperation the Survey Department will be enabled to make a study of the entire world in order that the whole task of the church may be put in a clear light and in due proportion.

With the full cooperation of the leaders at home and abroad, a survey statement can be secured which will not only furnish denominational programs approved by denominational leaders and based upon scientific data, but also a united program for all evangelical bodies of the United States, for their missionary, educational and benevolent work. We believe that such a statement is demanded by the Christian forces today. A united program statement of this character in the nature of the case will be more than the sum of all the individual programs independently arrived at. Such a program must be made in collaboration with all the forces on the field, supplemented by such independent investigations as may be necessary.

This cooperation may be realized in the following practical ways:

A. By denominational and other agencies:

1. In coordinating their survey processes with those of the Survey Department of the Interchurch World Movement.

2. In urging the help of their leaders on the field, at home and abroad, to secure the information needed in the formulation of these programs.

3. In informing the Survey Department how far plans for the expansion of their own work have already been developed, and in coordinating these plans with the program of the Interchurch World Movement.

4. In supplying the Survey Department with the findings of their various deputations being sent out from time to time.

B. By the Survey Department:

1. In recognizing all such surveys as an integral part of the world survey.

2. In applying to those agencies such necessary graphic and statistical facilities as will make uniform the presentation of all facts.

3. In receiving the findings of such deputations as may be sent out from time to time.

4. In furnishing to the several agencies a standardized form for the statement of their complete programs.

It is believed that such a plan of cooperation involving a sympathetic coordinated study of the whole range of activities now being carried on by the evangelical bodies of North America will result in the largest economy, and will make available to all constituents information and facilities which would be difficult or impracticable for them to provide for themselves.

IV. FINAL STATEMENTS OF THE SURVEY DEPARTMENT

As has been indicated, the final stage in the work of the Survey Department will be the preparation of united program statements, based on the entire body of facts gathered and on the programs of the participating agencies. These statements will be used in the financial campaign of the Interchurch World Movement. Such program statements will be assembled in two volumes, one for the United States and one for foreign lands. A "Program Statement" is an authoritative analytical statement of the objectives of any agency or organization in a given enterprise and of the resources in men and money needed to attain those objectives. Program statements of this kind may be made for a definite geographical unit, for a single institution, for work of a given type, for the work of a given denomination or organization, or for the entire evangelical enterprise at home or in foreign lands. The authoritative character of such a statement will be derived from the approval of it by the various agencies or organizations concerned.

The Survey Department, by presenting such a united and proportionate study of the evangelical forces of North America, may become a clearing house of information for all agencies involved and will be of assistance to all of them, without in any way interfering with their naturally constituted authority.

September 22, 1919

No. 152. I. 3. Sept. 1919